

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 IO-03 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-01

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

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USCINCEUR

S E C R E T USNATO 5516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SPC DISCUSSION OCTOBER 7 OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER

REF: A) USNATO 5445; B) USNATO 5452; C) STATE 220171

1. NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER WAS ON AGENDA AT OCTOBER 7 SPC.

2. UK REP (BAILES) NOTED THAT MBFR WORKING GROUP REPORT CALLED FOR NATIONAL FORECASTS OF LIKELY CHANGES IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER WHICH A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT MIGHT IMPEDE. SHE SAID THE UK DPQ SUBMISSION FOR 1974 INDICATED A MODEST INCREASE OF RAF MANPOWER IN GERMANY. HOWEVER, LONDON DID NOT CONSIDER THIS AN OBSTACLE TO CONSIDERATION OF NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT. UK BELIEVES SOME SUCH COMMITMENT PROBABLY NECESSARY FOR NON-CIRCUMVENTION REASONS. UK BELIEVES THAT IF ALLIES AGREE ON NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT FOR AIR FORCE MANPOWER THEY MUST MAKE SOME PROVISION FOR TEMPORARY CHANGES IN FORCE

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LEVELS DUE TO REDUCTIONS AND EXERCISES. HOWEVER, THE UK BELIEVES THAT THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT AND THE FOUR OTHER U.S. SUGGESTIONS ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER SHOULD BE SENT TO THE MBFR WORKING GROUP FOR FURTHER MILITARY AND TECHNICAL STUDIES,

AS MENTIONED IN THE PRESENT WORKING GROUP PAPER. SHE ASKED THAT THE SPC ON OCTOBER 10 REQUEST THAT THE WG UNDERTAKE SUCH A STUDY.

3. BELGIAN REP (BURNY) AID HE COULD CONFIRM THAT BELGIUM HAD NO PLANS TO INCREASE ITS AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE NGA. HE SAID BELGIUM WANTED A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER FOR NON-CIRCUMVENTION REASONS. HOWEVER, BELGIUM HAD A SECOND REASON. BELGIUM DOES NOT BELIEVE THE ALLIES CAN GET REDUCTIONS OF SOVIET TANKS WITHOUT OFFERING AT LEAST PART OF THE U.S. OPTION III, THE NUCLEAR OPTION. OPTION III CONTAINS AN AIR ELEMENT. IF THE U.S. REDUCED ITS F-4'S AND RELATED PERSONNEL UNDER OPTION III, THEN A CEILING WOULD EXIST ON THE ALLIED SIDE BUT NOT ON THE OTHER SIDE. A NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON AIR MANPOWER WOULD ELIMINATE THIS PROBLEM.

4. U.S. REP (MOORE) REFERRED TO THE UK COMMENT ON THE NEED FOR THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT TO ALLOW FOR TEMPORARY CHANGES IN FORCE LEVELS. HE CITED THIS AS A REASON FOR ACHIEVING THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER THROUGH AN AMENDMENT TO THE PRESENT NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT IN C-M(74)30 (REVISED), WHICH HAD DEALT WITH ISSUES SUCH AS THIS. WITH RESPECT TO THE NEED FOR FUTURE WG STUDIES, HE NOTED THAT THE WG REPORT HAD CONCLUDED THERE WAS A NEED FOR NATIONAL RESPONSES TO SPECIFIC QUESTIONS. THE UK AND BELGIUM HAD ANSWERED THE QUESTION RAISED BY THE WG REGARDING PLANNED INCREASES IN AIR FORCE MANPOWER WHICH THE NON-INCREASE COMMITMENT MIGHT IMPEDE. THE NEED NOW WAS FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS RAISED BY THE WG, RATHER THAN REQUESTING THE WG TO UNDERTAKE AN EXPANDED STUDY.

5. CANADIAN REP (BARTLEMAN) AND FRG REP (RANTZAU) SAID THEIR COUNTRIES HAD LIFTED THEIR RESERVATIONS ON THE WG REPORT.

6. BAILES APPROACHED U.S. REP FOLLOWING THE MEETING. SHE SAID THE UK WAS NOT "TRYING TO THROW SAND" IN THE U.S.

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PROPOSALS ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER, BUT BELIEVED FURTHER WG STUDY WAS NECESSARY, AND MIGHT EVEN FACILITATE SPC AGREEMENT. U.S. REP AGAIN NOTED THAT WHAT WG HAD RECOMMENDED WAS NATIONAL REPLIES TO CERTAIN QUESTIONS RATHER THAN ANY MAJOR NEW WG REPORT.

7. COMMENT: THE UK PROPOSAL FOR NEW STUDY OF AIR FORCE MANPOWER IN THE MBFR WG UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF MISSION RECEIVING THE GUIDANCE REQUESTED IN PARA 6, REF B BY OCTOBER 10 SPC. IN ADDITION, U.S. IS NOW THE ONLY COUNTRY NOT TO APPROVE THE CURRENT MBFR WG PAPER ON AIR FORCE MANPOWER. BARTLEMAN HAS INFORMED US THAT IF WG HAS NOT APPROVED THIS PAPER BY ITS NEXT MEETING, OCTOBER 15, CANADA HAS CERTAIN POINTS

REGARDING THE PAPER WHICH IT WILL HAVE TO RAISE. MISSION
BELIEVES THAT EARLY U.S. APPROVAL WILL HELP TO HEAD OFF EXPANSION
OF THE PRESENT WG PAPER.
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